



Superior Court of California

County of Siskiyou

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Press Release

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SISKIYOU COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

TRAFFIC INFRACTION AMNESTY PROGRAM

Yreka, California. Effective October 1, 2015, the Siskiyou County Superior Court began implementing the **Statewide Traffic Tickets/Infraction Amnesty Program** (“amnesty program”) created by Senate Bill 85, which added Vehicle Code section 42008.8, for cases which have been filed in Siskiyou County.

The amnesty program is a one-time program that will allow individuals to make a payment representing a 50% or 80% reduction of the outstanding balance (after deducting any and all civil assessment balances) to fully satisfy eligible delinquent Vehicle Code or non-Vehicle Code infraction citations or Vehicle Code misdemeanor cases, with the exception of parking tickets, driving under the influence, and reckless driving violations. The program ends on March 31, 2017. SB 405 was signed by the Governor on September 30, 2015, clarifying some portions of SB 85. The following Frequently Asked Questions should assist you in understanding the Siskiyou County Superior Court Program.

What are the requirements for an individual to be eligible to participate in the amnesty program (reduction only)?

- The citation or case is filed with the court;
- The individual failed to appear or failed to pay (bail or fine) that was due on or before January 1, 2013;
- The individual does not owe restitution to a victim within the county where the violation occurred;
- The individual has no outstanding misdemeanor or felony warrants within the county where the violation occurred; and
- No payments made after September 30, 2015. Any payment made on the specific case(s) on which amnesty is requested, after September 30, 2015, either voluntarily or involuntarily, disqualifies the case from eligibility for a reduction. However, an individual’s driver’s license may be reinstated if eligible.

Are misdemeanors eligible for amnesty?

It depends on the individual collections program and varies by county. **Siskiyou County does not extend amnesty to Vehicle Code misdemeanors.** That might not be the case in other counties. If a court and county agree, amnesty may be extended to specified Vehicle Code misdemeanors except driving under the influence and reckless driving violations.

What are the requirements to be eligible for the Driver's License Reinstatement and Issuance Program? This is a separate component of SB 85 and allows an individual to have his/her driver's license reinstated so long as that individual is meeting the terms and conditions of his/her payment agreement with the court.

Is it the court or county's responsibility to identify all eligible cases and release the driver's license hold?

No. The process is initiated by an application for release of driver's license hold. Once the appropriate conditions have been met, the court will utilize standard procedures for notifying the DMV.

May the license hold be released if the individual is otherwise eligible for amnesty but owes victim restitution or has outstanding warrants on the other cases?

Yes. Victim restitution, under Penal Code section 1202.4, or a warrant will not make the person ineligible to get their driver's license hold or suspension lifted, however, you will not be eligible for amnesty.

If an unpaid ticket was due on or before January 1, 2013, and the driver's license is suspended while payments are being made, can the driver license be reinstated?

Yes. The individual may be eligible for traffic amnesty if they have an unpaid ticket that was due on or before January 1, 2013, and they are meeting the terms and conditions of their payment agreement. Upon proper application, the court sends an abstract to DMV releasing the hold or suspension.

Can an individual request the \$55 DMV reinstatement fee be added to the amnesty payment plan?

No. This amount cannot be added to the payment plan and is separately collected by DMV.

Is an individual eligible for a driver's license hold release if the citation due date is September 30, 2015, or later?

Yes.

For detailed information please refer to www.courts.ca.gov/trafficamnesty.htm.

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